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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00045 030704Z

16
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 DRC-01 RSC-01

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P 030612Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2258
INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0045

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, AS, US
SUBJ: CODEL HOSMER'S VISIT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT
REF: (A) CANBERRA 0030
(B) CANBERRA 5913
(C) CANBERRA A-122
(D) CANBERRA A-121

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (REF A AND PREVIOUS), REP. CRAIG HOSMER, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY, WILL VISIT CANBERRA JAN. 8-10 AND SYDNEY, INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, JAN, 10-14. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT URANIUM ENRICHMENT WILL BE ONE OF MAJOR TOPICES DISCUSSED DURING REP. HOSMER'S CALLS ON GOA OFFICIALS. IN CANBERRA, HE WILL MEET WITH THE TWO KEY OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENRICHMENT AND RELATED ISSUES: MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR AND SECRETARY (PERMANENT HEAD) OF DEPT. MINERALS AND ENERGY HEWITT, WHO IS ALSO AAEC MEMBER. BOTH CONNOR AND HEWITT ARE HARD-NOSED, OUT-SPOKEN MEN WITH TENDENCIES TOWARD ECONOMIC NATIONALISM AND SUSPICIONS OF U.S. POLICIES ON ENRICHMENT, AMONG OTHERS (REFS C AND D). BOTH HAVE VIEWS ON ENRICHMENT THAT CONTRACT MARKEDLY WITH THOSE OF PREVIOUS LIBERAL-COUNTRY GAO, WHICH SENT PARTICIPANTS TO NOVEMBER 1971 MULTINATIONAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON ON U.S. GASEOUS DIFFUSION TECHNOLOGY.

2. TO USE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF REP HOSMER'S VISIT TO
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PAGE 02 CANBER 00045 030704Z

MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE IN ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS, EMBASSY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

WOULD WELCOME BACKGOUND AND GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT PRIOR
JAN 8. WE PARTICULARLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW REP. HOSMER'S
GENERAL ATTITUDES ON ENRICHMENT PLANTS OUTSIDE U.S. AND
PRESENT ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON ENCOURAGING SUCH A PLANT
IN AUSTRALIA BASED ON U.S. TECHNOLOGY. WE WOULD WELCOME
SUGGESTIONS ON HOW VISIT MIGHT BE USED TO DRAW GOA INTO
FULLER COOPERATION WITH U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS IN DEALING
WITH GLOBAL ENERGY PROBLEMS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: AUSTRALIA,
OF COURSE, WAS NOT MENTIONED IN SECRETARY'S DEC 12
PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY ACTION GROUP. GIVEN CONNOR'S
SUSPICIONS OF ANY MULTILATERAL INITIATIVE ON ENERGY MATTERS, HIS
BELIEF THAT AUSTRALIA IS IN ESPECIALLY FAVORED ENERGY POSITION
AND HIS VIEW THAT OTHER ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES PREFERABLE TO U.S.
GASEOUS DIFFUSION LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DEFINITE RESERVATIONS
ON COOPERATION WITH U.S. OR OTHRS ON COMMON ENERGY PROBLEMS.

ALSO, CONNOR APPARENTLY BLAMES "U.S. PRESSURE" ON
JAPAN FOR GOJ BRUSQUE TURN-DOWN LAST OCTOBER OF HIS
PROPOSAL FOR JOINT AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE FEASIBILITY STUDY
OF ENRICHMENT PLANT TO BE BUILT IN AUSTRALIA BASED ON
JAPANESE CAPITAL AND "TECHNOLOGY." (REF B). END COMMENT).

3. ACTION REQUESTED: BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE FOR REP.
HOSMER'S VISIT LONG LINES PARA 2 PRIOR TO CODEL'S JAN. 8
ARRIVAL, LOCAL TIME.
HARROP

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